

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/ EGY: GNANDERSON

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R 101520 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 088817

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN BEIRUT TEL AVIV
PARIS LONDON USUN FROM ROME MAY 9

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3633

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR IT EG XF

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER MENTIONS SECOND SUEZ CANAL

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

1. DURING MAY SPEECH IN SICILY, ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI
MENTIONED THE EVENTUAL NEED FOR ANOTHER SUEZ CANAL TO HANDLE
VESSELS
WHICH PRESENT CANAL CANNOT ACCOMMODATE.

2. AS ADDRESSES WILL RECALL, THERE HAS BEEN REPEATED PRESS
SPECULATION THAT ITALIANS PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF ANOTHER SUEZ
CANAL AS PART OF AN ITALIAN MID EAST PEACE PLAN PRESENTED TO USG
DURING ANDREOTTI' S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. ITALIANS SUBSEQUENTLY
DENIED THAT ANY SUCH PROJECT WAS SUGGESTED.

3. IN VIEW OF ANDREOTTI' S MAY 6 STATEMENT, THE AMBASSADOR, DURING
MAY 7 MEETING WITH ANDREOTTI, RAISED MATTER.

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4. ANDREOTTI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD INDEED MENTIONED SECOND CANAL DURING MAY 6 SPEECH, BUT HE EXPLAINED ITALIANS HAD CLEAR VIEW OF PRIORITIES OF SITUATION, FIRST OF WHICH WAS REOPENING OF PRESENT CANAL. ANDREOTTI SAID HIS REMARKS SIMPLY POINTED OUT THAT PRESENT CANAL INADEQUATE FOR PRESENT DAY TANKERS AND SECOND WATERWAY WILL INEVITABLY BE REQUIRED.

5 EGYPTIAN EMBASSY ROME OFFICER TOLD US MAY 7 THAT GOE TAKES VERY DIM VIEW OF SECOND CANAL PROJECT, AND IS DISTURBED BY ANDREOTTI'S REITERATION OF IDEA AFTER REPETATED ITALIAN DENIALS ON SUBJECT. HE SAID HE EXPECTED THAT EGYPTIAN EMBASSY WOULD RAISE MATTER WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY. VOLPE
UNQUOTE ROGERS

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NMAFVVZCZ

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